

BIGGLESWADE RURAL
DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Biggleswade Rural District Council



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District for the year 1925.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 648 dated Dec. 10th, 1925. (Survey Report.)

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. H. Chaundler, Clerk to the Council, and his Staff, for the valuable help they have given me, also to your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. W. GRATTAN.

April, 1926.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	53,627
Population (1925) for Birth Rate	24,820
Population (1925) for Death Rate	23,160
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	5,244
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	5,309
Rateable Value	£141,263
Assessable Value	£115,574
Sum represented by a penny rate, special general	£331 £481

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population.

The estimated mid-yearly figures are supplied by the Registrar-General, who has reverted again to a separate one for calculations for (a) Birth-rate and (b) Death-rate. The latter is for civilians only, and the former includes the total population of the district, civilian and fighting services, e.g., presumably Henlow Aerodrome.

Births.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	.....	369	189	180	) Birth Rate 15.39.
Illegitimate	.....	13	8	5	

18.3. The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1925 was

Deaths.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Civilians only (all causes)	252	123	129	Death Rate 10.88

The death-rate from all causes for the whole of England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2.

Number of women dying in, or in	}	From Sepsis ...	0
consequence of childbirth		„ Other causes	3

17 Deaths (legitimate children 16, illegitimate 1) occurred in infants under one year of age, and the death-rate per 1,000 births was as follows:—

Legitimate	43.08	}	Total	44.50
Illegitimate	76.92			

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1925 was

75.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The following table gives the causes of death:—

	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough	3	1
Influenza	7	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	3
Cancer (malignant disease)	17	20
Diabetes	0	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc.	9	11
Heart Disease	21	20
Arterio-Sclerosis	2	9
Bronchitis	11	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	5
Other respiratory diseases ...	0	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	4
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	3

Congenital Debility and Malformation,			
Premature Birth	4	.....	3
Suicide	1	.....	0
Other deaths from violence	3	.....	4
Other defined diseases	21	.....	21
Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	.....	0
	123		129



3.—Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small-Pox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	19	14	0
Scarlet fever	19	17	0
Pneumonia	17	0	10
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0
Chicken Pox	8	0	0
Malaria	1	0	0

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified under Age-Groups

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	—	—	2	—	4	6	2	1	4	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	2	9	1	1	4	1	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	2	4	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Chicken Pox	1	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	2	4	3	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
20	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	1
25	5	4	1	—	1	2	1	1
35	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	1
45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 & upward	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	14	17	6	7	5	7	2	3

The total number of notifications of Tuberculosis was 100, of which 56 had been previously notified.

29.4% of the deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in non-notified cases.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un-impaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated					
	at home	in Hospital				
1	1	—	1	—	—	—

4—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Of the 19 cases of Scarlet Fever, 12 occurred in Sandy, two in Arlesey, two in Everton, and one in each of the following parishes: Chicksands, Northill and Old Warden.

Of the 19 cases of Diphtheria, 6 occurred in Campton, 7 in Langford, 3 in Sandy and one in each of the following parishes:—Arlesey, Shefford and Moggerhanger.

With regard to the outbreak of Diphtheria in Langford, 6 cases occurred among school children between October 6th and November 7th. Three of these occurred in a family of eight where conditions of gross overcrowding existed.

The cause of the outbreak was not ascertained. All efforts to discover a carrier among direct contacts, teaching staff, etc., were unsuccessful. It should be mentioned, however, that a case of Diphtheria occurred on September 17th in Langford, five days after the patient had returned from a watering place where cases of the disease had been reported. This patient was treated at home in Langford and he was infectious until November 11th (date of first negative report).

With regard to the outbreak of Diphtheria among school children in Campton, the last case occurred on July 24th. A nasal "carrier" was detected and isolated on July 26th, and the evidence suggests that this child was instrumental in spreading the infection as case 4 lived next door, and case 5 sat next to him at school.

The case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in the Royal Air Force Depot at Henlow.

Closure of Schools.

The particulars of schools closed for epidemic sickness in the district have been supplied to me by Dr. Herdman, the County School Medical Officer, and are set out in the following table.

School.	From	To	Disease
Potton Boys' Council School ..	24/2/25	27/2/25	Mumps

5.—SUMMARY (for REFERENCE) of NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employ a Health Visitor for certain work.

Some of the parishes employ a parish or district nurse, whose services are of the greatest value.

Midwives.

Registration and supervision exercised by the County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

None in the district. The nearest available are:

For Maternity, Child Welfare and Tuberculosis: In Biggleswade.
For Venereal Disease: In Bedford.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Hospital.	Situation.	Authority.	Accommodation.
(1) Tuberculosis	... Mogerhanger Park	County Council —
(2) Maternity	..... None.		
(3) Children	..... None.		
(4) Fever	..... Biggleswade	..... Jointly with Biggleswade U.D.	22 Beds.
(5) Smallpox	..... Biggleswade	..... Jointly with Biggleswade U.D.	12 Beds.
(6) Mental	..... Stotfold	..... County Council —
(7) Infirmary	..... Biggleswade	..... Guardians —

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

None except that provided by the Guardians at the Infirmary, Biggleswade.

Ambulance Facilities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) For Infectious cases. | } Motor Ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital |
| (b) For Non-infectious and accident cases | |

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the district can obtain free Bacteriological Examinations in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis and Meningitis. These examinations are carried out by the Lister Institute, as the Council does not possess the necessary fitted laboratory.

During the year 130 such examinations were made.

Provision of Antitoxin.

Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. It is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade, and doctors can obtain it according to their requirements. The earlier this remedy is used in a case of Diphtheria, the greater the chance of recovery. Wherever there is the least suspicion of Diphtheria it is wise to inject Antitoxin, and to submit a swab for examination. If the latter should prove to be negative, no harm is done, and should it on the other hand be positive, much valuable time has been saved.

Tetanus Antitoxin is supplied by the County Council, Shire Hall, Bedford. Arrangements have also been made for the supply of Botulinus Antitoxic Serum, which can be obtained on application from the Medical Officer of Health, Guildhall, Cambridge.

Public Health Acts Adopted.

I. Infectious Diseases (Prevention), Act, 1890, adopted January, 1891.

II. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III, adopted September, 1896.

Bye-Laws or Regulations are in force in respect of :

Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Removal of House Refuse, Cleansing of Privies, etc., Prevention of Nuisances, Keeping of Animals, New Streets and Buildings (Structure and Drainage), Cleansing of Footways, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops.

The new Public Health (Meat) Regulations came into force in April, 1925, and have proved of great assistance.

Details of the work carried out under these regulations will be found on pages 12 and 13.

7—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sandy.

The most noteworthy occurrence affecting the public health during the past five years was the opening of the new system of sewerage at Sandy. The work was commenced in the early part of 1922 and was completed in 1923. The total cost of the undertaking being about £27,000.

A complete system of watertight sewers has been installed for the greater part of Sandy, excluding Water Lane and Beeston.

The disposal works are situated at the north end of the parish where the sewage is treated by the bacterial method.

Two filters have been constructed and provision made for a third should an extension be made to include the Beeston and Water Lane areas.

Practically the whole of the houses in the drainage area have now been connected to the new sewer.

Arlesey.

There is an urgent need of a modern drainage system for the parish of Arlesey. This question was considered by the Council in 1923, but was not proceeded with owing to financial reasons.

The present system of collection and disposal of night soil is very unsatisfactory.

There is no doubt that the majority of the parishioners are in favour of a modern system of drainage.

Potton.

One portion of this parish is provided with sewers which were laid many years ago. These sewers are old and more or less unsatisfactory.

The sewers discharge by gravitation to the disposal works situated about one third of a mile from Potton on the Biggleswade Road.

The sewage is pumped up on to high ground and disposed of by broad irrigation. About twelve acres of ground are available for this purpose.

Water Supply.

5,170 houses are supplied with water through 2,351 services of the Biggleswade Rural District Council. During the year the services have increased by 59, and the number of houses supplied by 60.

The average supply per head per day, on March 31st, 1925 (taking 4.5 persons per property and including all water used for trade and public purposes) was about 18.49 gallons, and for domestic purposes only, 14.12 gallons.

The extension of the water mains to supply the villages of Dunton, Eye-worth and Wrestlingworth was completed in 1921.

As the result of a request from a large land owner the question of providing a suitable water supply for the Parish of Everton was considered by the Council in 1925, who proposed extending the water main from Sandy to Everton. A public enquiry was held for the purpose of raising the necessary loan. At the enquiry I submitted a report on the existing water supply which is obtained from about 16 shallow wells.

Samples of water from three of these wells were examined and found to be polluted.

The work of extending the public water supply to Everton is now far advanced. A three inch main has been laid from Sandy to Everton. A water tank (for three days supply) is being erected in the Stack Yard of Warden Hill Farm, Everton, and a small pumping station, comprising two 8 h.p. Petter engines, is in course of construction at the bottom of the Everton Road near Sandy railway station.

The following table shows the parishes supplied by the Biggleswade Water Board:

	*No. of Houses Census, 1921.	No. of Houses Supplied up to Dec. 31, 1925.	Increase during 1925.
Arlesey	516	565	11
Astwick	11	13	—
Blunham	143	119	4
Campton	100	126	—
Chicksands	12	3	—
Clifton	344	328	2
Cockayne Hatley	23	—	—
Dunton	109	111	—
Edworth	20	24	—
Everton	55	—	—
Eyeworth	30	22	1
Henlow	235	340	2
Langford	318	359	4
Meppershall	158	21	—
Mogerhanger	94	123	—
Northill	307	360	4
Potton	511	516	4
Sandy	848	879	16
Shefford	199	227	3
Shefford Hardwicke	31	38	—
Southill	271	270	—
Stondon	14	—	—
Stotfold	502	469	6
Sutton	54	51	—
Tempsford	113	141	—
Warden	95	51	—
Wrestlingworth	121	115	3

*Since the Census was taken in 1921 a large number of houses have been erected by the Council under the Assisted Housing Scheme, particulars of which will be found on page 8.

MEPPERSHALL WATER SUPPLY.

In 1924 in accordance with instructions received from the Council a report was submitted on the water supply of Meppershall by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Water for domestic purposes is obtained from about 41 shallow wells and one deep one. Samples of water from twelve wells were examined, and the chemical analysis showed that the water was polluted in nine, indifferent in one and good only in two.

The sample from the deep well was found to be polluted.

This report was considered under the direction of the Council by the Meppershall Water Supply Committee who after due consideration submitted the following resolution to the Council:—"The Committee are of opinion that an improved water supply is desirable in the parish of Meppershall, but having regard to the heavy rate it would now entail, and also to the strong opposition of the inhabitants of Meppershall owing to the present healthy condition of the village, the Committee recommend that the matter should be deferred for the present."

After discussion an amendment was moved seconded and carried "that the matter be referred back to the Committee for further consideration."

Owing to the increasing demand for water in the district, the Water Board have decided to install additional pumping plant and a new engine at the pumping station on the Great North Road, with the object of increasing the volume of water raised.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time only).

One Sanitary Inspector for the whole district, who is also Meat and Food Inspector, and undertakes the supervision of new buildings under the Council's Bye-laws.

One Assistant available for outdoor and clerical work.

The present office accommodation provided for the public health staff consists of one room only.

Additional accommodation is urgently needed.

9.—HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of new houses built by the Council under the Assisted Housing Scheme.

Parish	Situation of Site.	Area Acres	No. of Houses	*Type	Weekly †Rent
Arlesey	Church End	4.52	26	3	6/6
	Three Counties	5.25	20	1	7/6
Blunham	Great Barford Road	2.08	10	3	6/6
Campton		3.70	26	2	6/6
Clifton	Broad Street	3.50	20	2	7/-
	Church End	1.80	12	1	7/6
Dunton		1.50	8	2	6/6
Everton		1.00	6	3	5/6
Henlow	Cross Roads	2.60	14	2	7/-
	Church End	2.00	12	1	7/6
Langford		6.96	42	18—1 24—2	7/6 7/-
Meppershall	Village	2.90	12	3	5/6
	Smarts Lane	2.50	14	2	7/-
Mogerhanger		2.70	14	2	6/6
Northhill	Carpenters Field	2.00	10	2	6/6
	Ickwell	1.10	6	2	6/6
	Upper Caldecote	4.42	24	2	7/-
	Hatch	1.17	6	3	6/-
Potton	Horselow Street	4.20	26	1	8/6
	Bury Hill	4.62	30	1	7/6
Sandy	Beeston	4.19	20	3	6/6
	Cambridge Road	2.08	16	1	7/6
	St. Neots Road	4.21	26	1	7/6
Shefford Hardwicke		6.05	30	1	7/6
Southill	Village	3.60	16	1	7/-
	Stanford	2.00	10	2	6/6
	Broom	6.37	30	1	7/6
Stotfold		10.84	61	9—1 52—2	7/6 7/-
Sutton	Cross Roads	1.45	12	2	7/-
Tempsford	North R. Church End ...	2.15	12	2	6/-
	Station Road	2.98	18	2	6/-
Wrestlingworth	Eyeworth Road	2.00	8	2	6/-
	Hatley End	1.91	8	2	6/-
Total ...		110.27	611		

*Type 1 refers to houses with both Bath and W.C. inside.

„ 2 refers to houses with either Bath or W.C. inside.

„ 3 refers to houses without Bath or W.C. inside.

† Rates are payable in addition.

During the year, 26 new dwelling houses have been erected by private enterprise.

After the war the Council adopted schemes for the erection of a number of houses in all parts of the district.

As a result of this policy some six hundred and eleven houses have been erected, as set out in above table, the work being completed in 1922.

The grant of a subsidy by the Government has been of considerable advantage. During the period under revision (1921-1925 inclusive) 72 houses have been erected, and the Government subsidy was granted in respect of 51 of these. Notwithstanding this progress there is still a shortage of suitable houses for the working classes. While the subsidy encourages the erection of bungalows and cottage property by speculative builders for sale, it does not appear to assist in the provision of suitable cottages to be let to the working classes at a moderate rent. There are a number of houses which are unfit for human habitation in the district but it has been impossible to take the necessary action in respect of them as there is no other accommodation available.

Whenever a house becomes vacant, which in my opinion is unfit for habitation, immediate action is taken to prevent the premises being re-occupied.

The following table gives a further summary of Housing work during the year :

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total	26
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	0

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	812
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.....	143
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	23
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	358

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	169
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	} NIL.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit ...	
(a) by owners	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	38
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :	
(a) by owners	23
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	23
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	8
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	0

Houses Demolished by Owner after C.O. by Council. No D.O. made..... 5

Houses repaired after representation. No C.O. made 6

Houses—repairs in hand after representation. No C.O. made 7

Dilapidated Cottages demolished by owner. No C.O. made 5

Barns and Outhouses, etc. (used as dwellings) vacated 4

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Biggleswade Rural District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourteenth Annual Report giving a summary of the sanitary and other work carried out by your Inspectors during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

There has been one change in the staff during the year, your Assistant Inspector, Mr. H. Payne obtaining another appointment in August and Mr. C. March, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, was appointed in his place.

The total number of inspections made was 4,367 which is a large increase over previous years this being due chiefly to the numerous inspections made under the new Meat Regulations, many of which were made during the evenings.

This increase was due to the improved means of transport, which your Council made possible by making me an additional travelling allowance, for the use of a motor car.

In connection with the 503 premises visited, sanitary defects to the number of 926 were discovered, and the necessary action was taken to have these remedied.

In a large number of cases intimations of defects were sent to the persons responsible by letter instead of by formal notice, and often this was all that was necessary in order to get the defects remedied.

In no case during the year was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Routine and Special Inspections	1,524
Visits in connection with Sandy Drainage	291
Re-visits after order or notice	462
Visits to works in progress after notice	49
Visits to new buildings in progress	377
Housing Inspections	143
Inspection of workshops, including bakehouses	52
" of slaughterhouses and foodshops	1267
" of cowsheds	109
" of Petroleum Stores	35
Visits re infectious diseases	15
Rooms disinfected	38
Samples of water taken	5

Notices Served.

Intimation Notices served 223, dealing with 411 houses.
Statutory Notices served 27, dealing with 38 houses.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO OWNER OR OCCUPIER.

Dwelling-Houses.

Roofs and chimneys repaired	57
Roof guttering, repaired or renewed	37
Floors repaired	45
Walls and ceilings repaired	62

Stairs repaired	7
Doors repaired	14
Windows repaired or made to open	25
Improved lighting by the provision of larger windows	17
Firegrates repaired or renewed	18
Rooms cleansed or re-decorated	29
Water supply laid on	20
Overcrowding abated	3
Nuisances from dampness abated	3
Barns or outbuildings discontinued being used for human habitation...	5
Miscellaneous	18

Drains.

Houses and premises redrained	142
Drains unstopped, cleansed or repaired	39
New cesspools provided or existing cesspools repaired	6

Closet Accommodation and Ash Receptacles.

Privies and E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s	146
Insanitary privies abolished and pails substituted	21
New sanitary pails provided in place of defective ones	19
Additional pail closets provided	7
Existing closet apartments repaired	8
Insanitary ashpits abolished	10
New galvanised iron ashbins provided	40
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	43
New W.C.'s erected	53
New pedestal W.C. basins fixed	6

Miscellaneous.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	47
Cowsheds improved	5
Bakehouses limewashed	5
Slaughterhouses limewashed and repaired	4
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	31
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	2
Foul ditches cleansed or piped in	3

HOUSING.

143 Inspections were made under the Housing Acts in the following parishes, viz.:

Arlesey	40	Clifton	5
Potton	26	Wrestlingworth	4
Northill	21	Broom	2
Langford	17	Sandy	1
Blunham	13	Stotfold	1
Shefford	12	Henlow	1

Whenever a house is inspected which appears to be beyond repair, the attention of the Medical Officer of Health is called to the same with a view to the house being represented as unfit for human habitation and a closing order obtained.

In all cases where it appears that houses can be made fit, then action is taken under the Public Health Acts with a view to getting the insanitary conditions remedied instead of applying for closing orders, as it is found that when a closing order is made there is considerable difficulty in the tenants finding other accommodation owing to the shortage of houses, the rents of which are within the means of the labouring classes.

The work carried out under the Housing Acts will be found on page 9 of the Medical Officer's report.

In five instances during the year persons were found to be living in barns or outbuildings, but on taking the matter up with the owners of the premises concerned, other and more suitable accommodation was found.

New Buildings.

The following table shows the work carried out in the district in connection with new buildings:—

Plans deposited and approved by the Council	62
New dwelling-houses erected	26
Additions to existing dwelling-houses	13
Village Halls erected	1
Blunham	1
(One is also near completion at Dunton).	
Workshops, stores and shops erected	5
Motor garages erected	4
Other buildings	9

In connection with the 26 houses erected, 23 qualified for the grant of subsidy under the Housing Acts 1923 and 1924.

The parishes in which the houses were built are as follows:—

Arlesey	7	Sandy	5
Clifton	4	Stotfold	7
Meppershall	1	Wrestlingworth	1
Mogerhanger	1		

At the close of the year 15 new dwellinghouses were in course of erection.

During the year 377 visits were made to new buildings in progress in order to see that the Council's Byelaws and the Regulations made under the Housing Acts were being observed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

At the end of the year there were 96 persons registered as dairymen in the district, 87 of these being cowkeepers who have their cowsheds in the district and the remaining 9 being purveyors of milk only, who obtain their supplies from local cowkeepers.

7 Persons were registered during the year, and 4 discontinued business.

The general condition of the majority of the cowsheds at the time of inspection was fairly satisfactory, in several instances it was necessary to call the attention of the occupiers to the need of limewashing and to contravention of the dairies and cowsheds regulations.

The parishes in which the premises are situated are as follows:—

Astwick	1	Mogerhanger	4
Arlesey	11	Northill	5
Blunham	2	Potton	3
Clifton	8	Sandy	9
Campton	2	Shefford	3
Cockayne Hatley	2	Stotfold	8
Dunton	2	Southill	6
Everton	1	Sutton	3
Henlow	5	Tempsford	6
Langford	8	Warden	3
Meppershall	2	Wrestlingworth	2

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924.

The new Meat Regulations which came into force on April 1st, 1925 are designed to secure more adequate inspection of animals slaughtered, improvements in the handling, transport and distribution of meat and the protection of meat from dust, dirt and flies and other sources of contamination both in the butchers shops, stalls, meat carts and vans.

Under the order it is necessary to give the Local Authority notice of the regular hours in which slaughtering takes place, and also not less than three hours notice of the slaughter of any animal at any other time.

The meat seller who uses a stall or van is required to exhibit his name and address on the stall or van.

The Regulations impose a penalty not exceeding £100, on any person who wilfully neglects or refuses to carry out, or obstructs, the execution of the Regulations.

These regulations are a great step forward in the protection of our meat supplies and all the butchers in the district have shown their willingness to comply with the requirements laid down.

The butchers have been provided with supplies of postcards for them to use in giving notice of the day and time when slaughtering takes place.

There are in the Rural District some 31 Registered or Licenced Slaughter houses which are scattered throughout the whole district and since the order came into force 1,267 visits have been made to slaughter houses or foodshops, a large number of visits being made in the evenings during the summer months.

It is, of course, impossible for an inspection to be made of all animals slaughtered in such a wide area but during the nine months of the year the order was in operation the following carcases have been inspected, viz:—

Oxen, 486. Sheep, 448. Pigs, 1,796. Calves, 62. Goats, 4.

As a result of these inspections the following diseased or unsound food has been destroyed:—

Carcases of Beef including offal (Tubercular)	4
Beef—Home killed	70 lbs.
„ —Imported	80 lbs.
Ox heads and tongues	3
Ox lungs	3
Ox livers	22
Mesenteric fat	1
Pigs carcases and offal	15
Pigs heads	22
Pigs plucks	33
Offal of 2 carcases of Pigs	2
Sows udders.	4
Carcases and offal of Sheep	1
Sheeps pluck	1
Calves carcases	3
„ pluck	1

Miscellaneous.

Tinned food 21 tins

At the close of the year there were 31 slaughter-houses on the register, 14 of which are registered, being in use previously to the passing of the Public Health Act 1875, and 17 are licensed annually. One licence is also granted for a Knacker's Slaughterhouse.

One new slaughterhouse has been erected during the year and a licence granted.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following is a list of factories and workshops on the register at the close of the year:—

Bakeries	33	Flour Millers	3
Bootmakers and Repairers	26	Stonemasons	2
Carpenters and Plumbers	23	Malt Makers	2
Blacksmiths	21	Glove Making	1
Motor and Cycle Engineers	21	Fellmonger and Parchment Maker	1
Dressmakers and Milliners	9	Brewer	1
Wheelwrights	10	Laundries	2
Tailors	8	Cabinet Maker	1
Saddlers	4	Tinsmith	1
Brickmakers	3	Cement Works	1
Printers	3	Engineering	1
Mineral Water Works	3		

POTTON SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A portion of the parish of Potton is drained by a system of sewers which gravitate to the pumping station situated near the Biggleswade Road, from where the sewage is pumped on to high ground and dealt with by broad irrigation.

The sewage farm consists of two fields each with an area of about 6 acres, the subsoil being chiefly of fine sand. The fields are used alternately for the disposal of the sewage, one field being planted each year with Brussels Sprouts.

The sale of these for the past year realised the satisfactory sum of £129 10s. nett.

The pumping machinery at the works consists of two oil engines each of 16 brake horse-power, and two/three throw plunger pumps. From information I can gather the engines and pumps were installed over 20 years ago, both pumps and one engine have been recently overhauled but require constant attention to keep them in running order.

During the past year the engines and pumps have worked on an average of 5 hours 19 minutes per day.

The main outfall sewer, from information I have recently obtained, was laid about 50 years ago, the gradients of the sewers are in places very flat, the lowest portion across the meadow adjoining the sewage works being practically level.

There is a considerable deposit of silt in the lower portions making frequent cleansing necessary.

During the past year the sanitary arrangements of all the houses within the sewered area have been inspected with the result that it was found that many of the water closets connected to the sewers were not provided with proper flushing cisterns, and a number of houses still possessed either pail closets or privies.

Intimation notices were served requesting the provision of proper flushing cisterns and also where privies or pail closets existed for these to be abolished and water closets substituted.

At the close of the year some 31 flushing cisterns had been provided and 29 privies or earth closets abolished and water closets substituted. The work in connection with a number of others is in hand.

SANDY SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Sandy Sewerage Scheme which was completed in June 1923 has continued to work satisfactorily during the year.

Samples of the final effluent have been submitted for analysis and reported as satisfactory.

The engines and pumps have worked on an average of 5 hours 35 minutes per day, and the whole of the plant has been maintained in good working condition by the attendant in charge.

During the Autumn a screen of poplar trees was planted along the town side of the works.

During the year 126 houses or premises were connected up to the new sewers and at the close of the year the drainage of 8 other houses was in hand.

There are now some 635 houses connected up to the new sewerage system out of a total of 661 within the drainage area, the exceptions being chiefly isolated houses which are too far from the sewers.

It will be seen that considering the time since the sewers have been laid, the owners of property within the drainage area have taken full advantage of the new scheme.

In the majority of cases the new connections have meant the laying of complete new drains to each house, which work has been supervised by your Inspectors and each drain has stood a water test satisfactorily before being passed; the work being chiefly carried out by local builders.

The sewer was extended in Northcroft for a distance of 70 feet in order to connect up five cottages known as Belle Vue, also for a distance of 145 feet in Laburnum Road in order to connect up the drainage from Wood View.

This new sewerage system has brought about a considerable improvement in the sanitary condition of Sandy.

The question of the provision of a public convenience in Sandy was considered by the Parish Council and Parochial Committee and it was decided to apply for the necessary powers with a view to the erection of a suitable convenience.

PUBLIC SCAVENGING WORK.

The removal of household refuse and the emptying of earth closets, privies, dumbwells, etc., is carried out by Contractors appointed by the respective Parochial Committees at Arlesey, Henlow, Langford, Potton, Sandy and Shefford.

Scavenging at Sandy has been carried out by direct labour since 1919, but in March last the Parochial Committee decided to invite tenders for this work and since that time it has been carried out by Contract. The horses, carts and scavenging utensils owned by the Council were sold by auction and realised satisfactory prices.

The work generally has been carried out very satisfactorily in the parishes of Sandy, Potton, Langford and Henlow.

Some complaints were received from Shefford with respect to the Contractor not carrying out his duties regularly, and considerable trouble has been experienced with the Contractors at Arlesey, who frequently neglected their work.

In this case a new Contractor has been appointed and it is hoped that the scavenging will be carried out in a more satisfactory manner.

At Sandy and Potton suitable tips are provided for the depositing of the refuse and it would be of considerable advantage if suitable tips could be obtained for the other parishes where the Council undertake the scavenging work.

SUMMARY OF THE SCAVENGING WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CONTRACTORS DURING THE YEAR.

The following is a summary of the scavenging work carried out by the Contractors during the year:

Parish.	Total No. Visits.	Ashpits Emptied	Ash- boxes Emptied	Privies Emptied	Cess- pools Emptied	Pail C. Emptied	Loads Rmd.	Average Cost	
								Per Visit.	Per Load
Arlesey ..	46242	1	18096	35	58	28933	808	1½d.	8/2½
Henlow ..	36650	3	12160	15	27	21520	503	¾d.	4/5¾
Langford ..	34244	1	11773	56	26	21274	559	1½d.	6 8¾
Shefford ..	23544	—	7616	9	10	16858	488	1d.	4/3¼
Sandy	50894	38	36834	74	76	17618	1604	2½d.	6/6¾
Potton	36689	50	22740	69	463	12904	1389	1½d.	3/10

Many houses are still not provided with sanitary ashbins and action is being taken with a view to getting this remedied.

PETROLEUM ACTS 1871 to 1881.

Licences renewed for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit	33
New licences granted	9
Licences renewed for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium	15
New licences granted	5
Quantity of Petroleum Spirit which may be kept in licensed stores	13,100 galls.
Quantity of Carbide of Calcium which may be kept in licensed stores	1 ton 5 cwt.

In connection with the Petroleum Stores 17 steel underground tanks fitted with pumps have been installed.

Conclusion.

I would again take this opportunity of thanking your Council for the consideration and support given to me during the year in the carrying out of my varied duties, and also to your Clerk, Mr. Chaundler, who is always so willing to give me his valued advice.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. ROBINSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

